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SWISS SAILOR TO BE LIFE BOAT AREA PRESIDENT

Readers will be interested to learn of the election of Dr. Hans Rudi Bolliger as Chairman of the Manchester and District Branch of the Royal National Life-boat Institution. The election of Dr. Bolliger took place on the 25th March at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch, held in the Lord Mayor's Parlour, Manchester Town Hall.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, at that time Councillor Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw, is the Branch President, the Vice-President being the Mayor of Salford, then Councillor Mrs. Nellie Openshaw. Dr. Bolliger succeeds the late Dr. Lamble, who served the Life-boat Institution in Manchester with loyalty and devotion for nearly thirty years.

The R.N.L.I. was founded in 1824 and is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. The unselfish devotion and courage of its volunteers who man the boats and maintain the stations round the British shores has become a tradition respected the world over by people who use the seas. The national headquarters are in Poole, Dorset.

The Manchester and District Branch is comprised of eight clubs in the City itself and eighteen in the district, a total of twenty-six supporters clubs affiliated to the Branch. Dr. Bolliger takes up office at a time when all volunteers are much aware of the task facing the Institution in 1976 to maintain an efficient Life-boat Service and meet an expenditure of £6

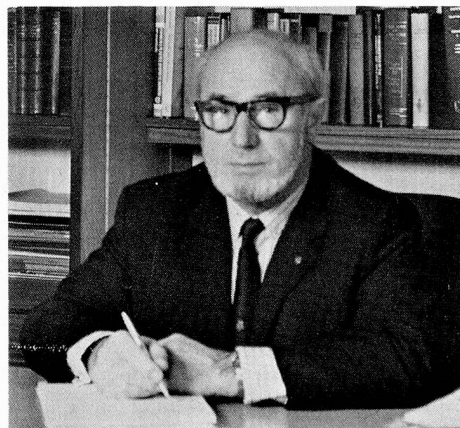
millions. Annual maintenance of a boat can be as high as £24,000 and the present cost of lifeboats in their different classes range from £100,000 to £200,000.

Dr. Bolliger and his wife Trudi are very keen sailors, sailing their 12-ton sloop, Vogel Gryff II mainly round the West Coast of Scotland, the Hebrides and the Orkneys, and Dr. Bolliger currently holds an instructor's certificate of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Royal Yachting Association. They have been voluntary workers for the Institution for a number of years, and working from their home in Mere, Cheshire, they re-kindled local interest in the R.N.L.I. and re-started the Knutsford Branch, which had been inactive for some years. It is with this kind of enthusiasm and determination that Dr. Bolliger accepted his election as Chairman of the Manchester and District Branch, at the same time conscious of the personal tribute which the Branch had paid to him.

Dr. Bolliger was educated in the French-speaking Canton of Neuchâtel and at the University of Basle, where he gained his Ph.D. in 1946. Upon leaving the University he became engaged in research work with CIBA Limited in Basle and for the past twenty-one years he has been with the Clayton Aniline Company Limited in Manchester, where he is Research and Development Director. They have a married daughter,

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

Regula, who gained State Registration in nursing after three years training at Manchester Royal Infirmary.



Dr. H. R. Bolliger, recently elected chairman of the Manchester and District Branch of the RNLI.

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IS THERE STILL SWISS PATRIOTISM?

Reflections on the Work of the Swiss National Day Fund

"Switzerland is too small" – "Switzerland is boring" – "Switzerland lacks respect abroad" – "Switzerland is not worthy of being defended". These are just a few random opinions expressed by Swiss artists and intellectuals. It is strange that these compatriots should talk in such a way of their country which has enabled most of them to get their training and opportunities.

It is in this vein that the 1975 annual report of the Swiss National Day Fund (*Schweizerische Bundesfeier-Spende, Don suisse de la Fête nationale, Dono Svizzero della Festa Nazionale, Dun Svizzer dalla Fiasta Naziunala*) addresses its readers. It goes on to say that so many Swiss do not realise how ungrateful they are in their attitude because they have fallen victim to the temptation facing inhabitants of a small country that all things foreign are better and to overlook the great values at home. They try to spread alien ideas which are being proclaimed from international platforms and forget to study the fundamentals which have made Switzerland what it is.

This does not mean that one has to accept everything Swiss with unquestioning loyalty as being the best and the Swiss the only right policy. No, there is much to criticise, not least the materialism which has shown its ugly results also at home. True patriotism is not blind acceptance, nor shouting slogans of allegiance. It shows itself in quietly doing one's duty in the interest of one's country, to help where there is need, to support genuine efforts of improving conditions in public life. And that goes for the Swiss abroad as well as for compatriots at home.

That there are many Swiss who realise their duties is borne out by many manifestations. The National Day Fund is just one such proof. In 1975, the

collections and sales of badges and stamps were mainly devoted to the work of the Red Cross inside Switzerland, and a total of Fr. 4,764,041.11 was collected. Of this, Fr. 77,103.49 came from the Swiss communities abroad. As usual, a number of cultural organisations were also included in the list of recipients.

The Annual General Meeting of the Fund took place on 24th March. It was held in Zug under the chairmanship of its President, Mr. Adolf Ehrsam, who is also a member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad. This is not accidental, for the Organisation receives the bulk of the annual collection every 6 or 7 years, and it is not least due to this support that the work of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad can be carried out.

In his presidential address, Mr. Ehrsam referred to the 1st August as the day on which the Swiss people remember with gratitude the generations who, every one in its own way and often with great sacrifice, contributed to the development of Switzerland. This gratitude, said Mr. Ehrsam, could only be called by that name if every individual were ready and willing to carry his share of effort, work and sacrifice. That is true patriotism.

The collection in 1976 will be equally divided between the Swiss Association of Youth Hostels and the Protection of National Monuments, Buildings and Nature, two very worth causes which we Swiss abroad, too, have every interest in supporting.

MM

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD
Friday 27th – Sunday 29th August
Morat. Please apply for information to
Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad,
Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne.

Schweiz
Suisse
Svizzera

Pro Patria 1976

Schweizer Schlösser Ausgabetag
Châteaux suisses Jour d'émission
Castelli svizzeri Giorno d'emissione
28. 5. 1976



Kyburg



Grandson



Murten / Morat



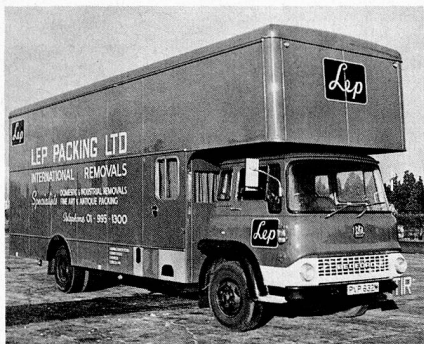
Bellinzona Montebello

Entwürfe Dessins Anne Oertle, Winterthur
Disegni Formato
Format 33,4 x 28 mm
Formato

The design of these beautiful Pro Patria 1976 stamps is by Anne Oertle of Winterthur.



This year's 1st August symbol was designed by a creative artist from Basel – Celestino Piatti. His thinking, which has produced this "upward reaching" motif was primarily inspired by Swiss efforts to defeat the current economic recession.



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